GOTHIC ORNAMENTS FROM THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF YORK.

The metropolitan church of St. Peter, at York, is one of the most beautiful of those extraordinary edifices which our forefathers have left us, in proof of their piety and skill. Like many of our ancient buildings, it displays the workmanship and style of various periods, and may be made to illustrate a considerable portion of the history of pointed architecture. The crypt under the choir was commenced in 1171. The south transept was built by Archbishop Walter Grey, about the year 1227; and the north transept by John le Romayne, treasurer of the church, between 1250 and 1260. The nave and aisles were commenced by his son, Archbishop le Romayne, in 1291, and finished about 1330. The choir was built between 1361 and 1400, and the western towers soon after the latter date.*

The above engravings form part of a series of ornaments from this cathedral church, which we propose to lay before our readers at intervals. They are reduced in size from Halfpenny's work,† and will be found as beautiful *per se*, as they are valuable from exhibiting the style of different epochs.

Fig. 1 represents part of the clerestory in the south transept with the cornice from which springs the groining of the roof. The windows are 6 feet high, and 1 foot 10 inches wide.

Figs. 2 and 3 shew the foliage of the capitals in the north transept; and

Fig. 4 a corbel in the west aisle of the north transept, supporting clustered shafts.

All these, as may be seen, are of the early English period. The lancet widow of the clerestory, the dog-tooth moulding around the arch, the boldly-sculptured foliage of the capitals, are all characteristics of the style.

The foliage and mouldings of this period are usually well executed; the former is generally in high relief. The mouldings are boldly cut, and present deep hollows, which produce effective shadows. A plain round with a good projection, and hollow below it, such as is seen over the corbel, fig. 4, is a moulding very generally used in buildings of this style.

The extreme length of York Minster outside is 518 feet, including the projection of the buttresses, the width 140 feet, the transepts from north to south 241 feet. The height of the nave is 93 feet, the height of the centre tower 198 feet, and the height of the western towers to the top of the pinnacles 200 feet.

PORTLAND VASE.

We observe with indignation that some *charitable* individual, unknown, has paid the fine of 3*l.* levied on the tipsy rascal who destroyed this interesting and unique relic, and has thus saved him from the short imprisonment to which, in default of payment, he had been sentenced. We regret that we cannot make known, for public gratitude, the Samaritan who has thus stepped in to prevent the infliction of the very immensurate punishment permitted in the present defective state of the law, and has offered a premium to some other dot for the destruction possibly of some choice illuminated MS. at the Museum, or of the last new picture at the National Gallery. It is to be hoped that the legislature will promptly pass a law for the protection of such works, and not allow the weakness of one individual to offer impunity to the vicious habits of another.

* See Mr. Britton's history of the building in his "Cathedral Antiquities."

† "Gothic Ornaments in the Cathedral Church of York."

MACHINE FOR RAISING STONES EMPLOYED AT ASSIZE COURTS, LIVERPOOL.

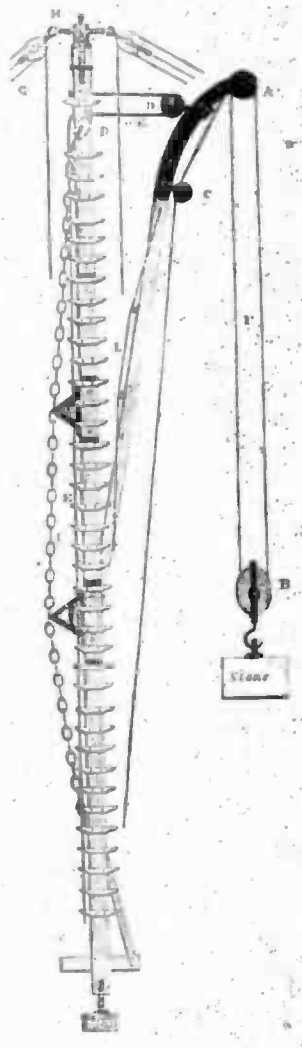

Fig. 1.

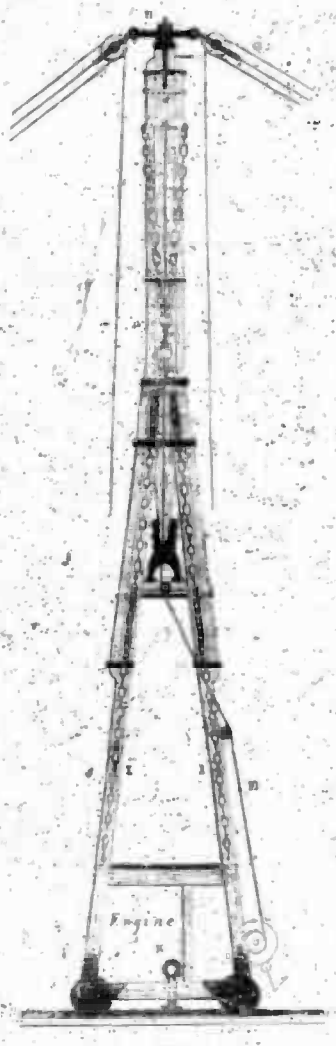

Fig. 2.

In consequence of the reference to the mode adopted by Mr. Tomkinson for raising building materials at Liverpool, made in page 34 *ante*, Mr. Hawley, the clerk of the works, has forwarded the annexed representations of the machine, drawn on a scale of 16 feet to 1 inch. Fig. 1, shews the side of the derrick, fig 2, the end. The wheels run on a tram-way laid parallel with the walls of the building.

A. Cat-head for four sheaves.
B. Large three-sheave block.
C. Single sheave to keep hauling part from stone.
D. Strong single sheaves for derrick-rope to pass over to the crab.
E. 7 in. rope for hoisting and lowering derrick.
F. Fall for hoisting stone, &c., worked with 34 horse-engine.
G. Guy-ropes; three parts to each worked with single purchase crabs.
H. Swivel-cross for attaching the four guy ropes.
I. Chain back-braces.
K. Screw for bolding sheaves when turning corners.
L. Braces for strengthening derrick.

Mr. Hawley says, "I believe Mr. Tomkinson is the only builder that has this kind of sheer legs in use at the present time. He first used them at the Liverpool Custom-house, but with a fixed engine, and the fall-rope was conducted from the legs to the engine by means of passing through snatch-blocks, and the engineer was guided by signals. We have the same legs in use at the new Assize-courts, with the engine attached, and it is consequently locomotive. The rapidity with which large stones are raised is quite extraordinary. Mr. Tomkinson also first put in practice the travelling carriage on timber scaffolding, for raising building materials, the idea originating with one of Mr. Tomkinson's foremen, named John Day. It has received great improvements since, as all other first inventions will do, from experience, our greatest tutor."

We examined the machine for raising stones by steam in operation at Liverpool a short time ago, and saw that it accomplished its work with wonderful rapidity and precision.

ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL.—In a recent number, we mentioned some proceedings under the new Buildings Act relative to this interesting relic. For some time past, the lodge entrance to the old monastery has been tenanted as a public-house, and it is apparently in a very dilapidated state from want of proper repairs and attention. A strong desire exists on the part of many antiquaries and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, to restore this interesting part of the ancient building, and to convert it into a literary and scientific institution, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the crowded district of Clerkenwell, in the same way as Crosby-hall for the city, as it might easily be made available for the purpose.—*Globe*.

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